

LIBRARY

1942

Annual Report



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Rural District

OF

Mitford and Launditch,
Norfolk.

EAST DEREHAM :

PRINTED BY G. ARTHUR COLEBY, BOOKSELLER AND STATIONER, MARKET PLACE

1943

MITFORD & LAUNDITCH RURAL DISTRICT

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for 1942

Sec. A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, (in acres)	...	...	...	102,371
Population, (Census 1931)	...	...	...	17,107
Number of inhabited houses, (end 1942)	...	...	...	4,970
Rateable value	...	...	...	£41,327
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£176/1/8

Generally speaking, the health of the inhabitants has continued to be good and there were no serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases..

Tuberculosis. There were six fewer cases notified than during last year, but the number of deaths increased from six to nine. Comparing the incidence and mortality with the average during the ten years ended 1938, the total cases notified was 27 compared with 24·6 and the number of deaths 9 compared with 7·9. Two of the respiratory cases notified were inward transfers.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

			Totals	M	F
Live Births	{ Legitimate	...	285	151	134
	{ Illegitimate	...	18	11	7
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :			...	...	17'47
Still Births	{ Legitimate	...	11	4	7
	{ Illegitimate	...	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000, (live and still), births :			...	...	35

There is a small discrepancy between the total number of deaths recorded by the Registrar-General and local returns. The Registrar-General's figure is 240 and the local figure 234. Rates have been calculated on the latter figure.

			Total	M	F
Deaths	...	...	234	130	104
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :			...	...	13'49

It is satisfactory to record that, for the third year in succession, there were no deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other puerperal causes. One case only of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified.

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births		...	...	38'8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				42.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer, (all ages)		...	...	38
,, ,, Measles, (all ages)		...	...	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			...	Nil

The Birth Rate, (17'47), is 1'32 higher than in 1941 and 1'6 above the National average, (15'8). This is the highest rate recorded since 1922.

There were 12 deaths of infants under one year of age, as compared with 11 in the previous year, giving a rate of 38 per 1,000 births. This is 11 per 1,000 less than the National average. (49). In only two previous years has a lower rate been recorded. Thirty years ago the average infant mortality rate was about twice this figure.

The Death Rate, (13·49 per 1,000 pop.), is 0·7 lower than in the previous year and 1·8 above the National average, (11·6).

It is noteworthy that, of the 234 deaths compiled locally, 52% were over 70 years of age.

			Total	M	F
70-80	...	...	68	42	26
80-90	...	...	51	22	29
Over 90	...	...	4	2	2

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Staff of the District Council consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Sanitary Inspector, who is a certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and a Housing Officer. The Sanitary Inspector has ceased to act as billeting officer in order that he should have sufficient time to give to his normal work and a separate Billeting Officer has been appointed in his place.

An emergency laboratory service is available at Cambridge.

The County Isolation Hospital at Dereham has accommodation for 96 beds. 29 patients from the District were admitted during the year.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Progress in immunising children between the ages of 1 and 15 years of age has continued satisfactorily and the proportion of children immunised under 5 years has been doubled. Approximately 72% of the estimated child population under 15 years of age have now been immunised, but the percentage immunised under 5 years is still only half that of the children over 5.

The necessity for immunising children before they reach 5 years of age cannot be too strongly emphasised.

The position at the end of the year was as follows:—

	Under 15	5 - 15
Estimated child population ...	1400	2800
Immunised during 1941 ...	400	2408
Immunised during 1942 ...	197	146
Estimated percentage immunised	43%	86%

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(1) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE,

The following sewers were cleaned out by the District Council during the year:

Bawdeswell	Litcham
Scarning	Lyng

7 new systems of drainage and disposal plants were provided by owners with the advice and approval of the Council's Sanitary Inspector.

(2) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Following upon informal action by the District Council, 2 vault privies were converted into pail closets during the Year.

During the last 15 years 382 vault privies have been converted to the pail system.

(3) SCAVENGING.

Scavenging schemes are provided by the District Council at Litcham, Shipdham and Lyng, all being carried out by contract. The approximate number of houses served is 80, 180 and 120 respectively.

(4) SALVAGE.

The collection of Salvage is administered by a Special Committee and each parish has a Salvage Steward. The central collecting depôt is at Gressenhall Public Assistance Institution.

A considerable portion of the salvaged material is removed outside the Area and most of the bones are disposed of by butchers.

Considerably increased amounts of salvage have been dealt with at Gressenhall during the year, 30 tons more waste paper having been received than during the previous year.

The total quantities collected at Gressenhall were as follows :

Paper	...	...	57½ tons
Metal	...	...	4 „
Rubber	...	..	9½ „
Bones	...	...	3 „

Thus far, the receipts from the sale of the salvaged material have exceeded expenses.

(5) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Nuisances detected	...	...	17
Nuisances abated	...	...	9
Disinfections	...	...	70
Notices served :			
Preliminary	...	...	17
Statutory	...	...	3

Sec. D.

HOUSING.

Number of houses erected during the Year :

(i) By the Local Authority	...	Nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	Nil

The District Council has provided a total of 353 houses under the Housing Acts, viz: 145 for Slum Clearance, 41 for relief of Overcrowding and 167 for general needs.

6 houses at Elmham and 6 at Shipdham are of the parlour type. 30 have four bedrooms and the remainder three, all having drainage for sink waste. In addition, 18 are provided with bathrooms.

Rents have been increased during the year as follows :

58 at 6/3 and the remainder at 5/3. One specially built house is let at 7/- per week,

HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1936.

No applications were submitted during the year.

51 grants have been made by the Council since the Act came into force.

SCHOOLS.

There are 34 elementary schools in the District.

Litcham school is provided with water closets, one school has the dry-solid system and the remainder have pails.

Water supplies are as follows :

Pipe supply	...	...	1
Draw wells	...	...	18
Pump wells	...	...	13
Carted from neighbouring source			2

Housing work carried out by Sanitary Inspector :

Plans of building improvements passed	2
Visits for purpose of supervising building	5

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Notices were served in respect of 7 dwelling-houses requiring defects to be remedied.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk :—

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926 :

Number of registered cow-keepers and purveyors of milk :

(i)	Wholesale	...	...	...	279
(ii)	Retail	...	...	...	20
	Number of registered cowsheds and dairies	...	...	...	319
	Cowsheds reconstructed	...	...	...	9
	Cowshed inspections	...	...	...	536

Milk, (*Special Designations*), Orders, 1936 & 1938 :

Number of registered producers of Accredited Milk :

(i)	Wholesale	...	...	...	65
(ii)	Retail	...	...	...	3

Inspections by Sanitary and Food Inspector :

Visits to farms and dairies	..	...	343
Milk samples taken	...	...	142

55 samples failed to pass the Meteylene Blue Test, 23 of these being repeat samples.

(b) Meat :—

Condemned as unfit for human consumption :

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & L	Pigs
<i>All diseases :—</i>					
Whole carcasses	3	12	7	3	1
Organs or parts	5	128	3	5	3
<i>Tuberculosis :—</i>					
Whole carcasses	1	9	1	—	—
Organs or parts	10	63	2	—	—

All slaughtering now takes place at a central slaughter-house under Government control.

(c) *Other Foods :—*

Number of registered bake-houses	...	22
Food shops inspected	...	182
Bake-houses inspected	...	24

*Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL
OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.*

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	36	18	—
Diphtheria	5	5	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	1	—	—
Pneumonia	13	2	7
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Typhoid Fever	2	2	—
Whooping Cough ..	38	1	—
Measles	4	—	—

DIPHTHERIA.—Of the 5 cases notified, 4 had not been immunised. The fatal case was a child aged 11 years who had been immunised and contracted the infection outside the area.

AGE GROUPS.

AGE GROUPS (years)	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	1	1	22	6	5	1	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	—	4	1	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	5	2	2	3	24	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1942.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
5 — 15	2	1	5	3	1	—	—	—
15 — 25	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 — 35	1	5	1	1	1	—	1	—
35 — 45	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	—
45 — 55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	4	9	8	6	5	2	2	—

2 of the respiratory cases notified were inward transfers. 3 cases had not been notified before death, one pulmonary, one generalised and one certified as tuberculous broncho-pneumonia. The latter case died at the County Isolation Hospital.

At the end of the Year there were 136 cases of Tuberculosis on the District Register, 60 respiratory and 76 non-respiratory. The total number of cases remains the same as in the previous year.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

The number of evacuated persons resident in the Area has varied as follows:—

Quarter	Total Number	Unaccompanied Children	Mothers	Accompanied Children	Other Adults
March	766	136	158	335	137
June	742	129	152	312	149
September	651	89	139	291	132
December	599	83	120	277	119

The number of evacuated persons resident in the area has decreased steadily throughout the Year, the total number having fallen from 942 in December, 1941 to 599 at the end of 1942.

All billets are now visited at least once a Quarter by a representative of the W.V.S. This organisation has continued to give invaluable assistance.

No organised evacuation into the District took place during the Year. 166 homeless persons were lodged with friends and relatives by private arrangement.

The number of condemned cottages used for billeting is being reduced as rapidly as possible. 19 such premises were vacated during the year.

NORMAN E. D. CARTLEDGE,

Medical Officer of Health.